

Message Text

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67

ACTION SCI-06

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PLOS, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS - OCEAN DUMPING CONVENTION

REF: IAEA VIENNA 5370

1. SUMMARY: IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON SEPTEMBER 13 APPROVED AGENCY PROVISIONAL DEFINITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SEA DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES PURSUANT TO LONDON OCEAN DUMTG CONVENTION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO UK GOVERNMENT, AS DEPOSITARY FOR CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. SEPTEMBER 13 IAEA BOARD SESSION CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 2 OF ITS AGENDA REVISED PAPER CONTAINING AGENCY'S SUGGESTED DEFINITION OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTES UNSUITABLE FOR DISPOSAL AT SEA AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO LICENSING DISPOSAL OF OTHER RADIOACTIVE WASTES AT SEA CONTAINED DOCUMENT GOV-1688 (TRANSMITTED IAEA VIENNA A-3661 NOTAL). AS REPORTED REFTEL, ORIGINAL DOCUMENT CONSIDERED IN JUNE WAS REVISED BY SPECIAL GROUP OF EXPERTS CONVENED IN JULY BY DG AT GOARD'S REQUEST. REVISION CLARIFIES PROVISIONAL NATURE OF DUCUMENT, EXPLICITLY STOTES THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS ENCOURAGING IN ANY WAY
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SEA DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES, AND STATES THAT DOCUMENT

WILL BE SUBJECT OF PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION BY AGENCY,
WITH FIRST OF SUCH REVIEWS TO BE HELD IN EARLY 1975.

3. MOST OF 12 STATES WHICH SPOKE ON ITEM FELT THAT REVISION HAS PRODUCED A BETTER DOCUMENT THAN ONE CONSIDERED IN JUNE. FRANCEN CANADA, FRG, UK SPECIFICALLY WELCOMED REVIEW IN EARLY 1975 AND CONDITIONED APPROVAL ON EXPECTATION THAT SUCH REVIEW WOULD BE HELD BEFORE SUMMER OF THAT YEAR. CANADA, FRG LAID SPECIAL STRESS ON PROVISIONAL NATURE OF DOCUMENT. ARGENTINA, WHILE ACCEPTING DOCUMENT AS CORRECT FROM TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER STUDIES (WITHOUT ACCEPTING THAT SUCH STUDIES COULD CHANGE SITUATION PER SE), STATED THAT MATTER OF COST/BENEFIT MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CONTEXT, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE COSTLY AND LESS CERTAIN TO ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN HIGH-LEVEL AND ALPHA BEARING WASTES, WITH EXCEPTIONALLY LONG HALF-LIVES, ON LAND THAN TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE MEANS OF SEA DISPOSAL FOR SUCH WASTES. ITALY EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD BE INVITED TO SEND EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE IN 1975 REVIEW, AS MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL STATE WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN MARINE POLLUTION MATTERS. INDIA STATED IT HAS TRANSMITTED CERTAIN TECHNICAL COMMENTS TO SECRETARIAT; WHILE ACCEPTING THAT DOCUMENT WAS PROVISIONAL IN CHARACTER, INDIA NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT THERE REMAINED SOME LACK OF PRECISION IN DEFINITIONS, MATTER OF MONITORING, DEVELOPMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHIC MODELS AND GUIDELINES AS TO APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL SITES. INDIA ALSO NOTED LACK OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE ON POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES, ESPECIALLY HIGH-LEVEL WASTES, ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND CALLED FOR REDUCTION TO LOWEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS DISPOSED OF AT SEA UNTIL SUCH KNOWLEDGE COULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED. SWITZERLAND HOPED THAT SEA DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES COULD BE SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OTHER SPEAKING BRIEFLY TO INDICATE ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENT INCLUDED: AUSTRALIA, USSR, US.

4. IN RATHER UNUSUAL STATEMENT, UNCHARACTERISTIC OF REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION, CHILE, WITHOUT PREJUDGING TECHNICAL MERITS OF STUDY, OBSERVED THAT DOCUMENT WAS SILENT ON QUESTION OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. CRITERIA FOR SEA DISPOSAL SHOULD BE AS STRINGENT AS POSSIBLE, BUT ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION MIGHT NOT BE UNCLASSIFIED

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OBTAINABLE. CONSIDERATION MUST THEREFORE BE GIVEN TO QUESTION OF DUMPING WITHIN 200 MILES OF COAST, WITHIN ECONOMIC RESOURCE ZONE WHICH IT WAS GENERAL CHILEAN POSITION TO ADHERE TO.

5. BOARD CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY ACCEPTING DOCUMENT AS PROPOSED. DG INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO UK, AS DEPOSITARY FOR LONDON CONVENTION, AND UK GOVERNOR INDICATED THAT UK WAS READY TO RECEIVE

AND CIRCULATE IT IN ITS ROLE AS DEPOSITARY. TAPE

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